

U. S. PLANT PATENT APPLICATION OF

YOSHIRO ARIMITSU

FOR: VERBENA PLANT NAMED

'BODCOMWHI'

ARIMITSU, Yoshiro

TITLE: VERBENA PLANT NAMED 'BODCOMWHI'

APPLICANT: YOSHIRO ARIMITSU

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION/CULTIVAR DESIGNATION:

Verbena hybrida cultivar Bodcomwhi

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BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present Invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of Verbena plant, botanically known as *Verbena hybrida*, and hereinafter referred to by the name 'Bodcomwhi'.

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The new Verbena is a product of a planned breeding program conducted by the Inventor in Lompoc, California. The objective of the breeding program is to develop new Verbena cultivars with a dense and bushy growth habit, numerous flowers, and interesting flower and foliage colors.

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The new Verbena originated from a cross-pollination made by the Inventor in July, 1986 of the *Verbena hybrida* cultivar Romance Salmon, not patented, as the female, or seed, parent with the *Verbena*

hybrida cultivar Cadix, not patented, as the male, or pollen, parent.

The cultivar Bodcomwhi was discovered and selected by the Inventor as a flowering plant within the progeny from this cross-pollination in a controlled environment in Lompoc, California.

- 5 Asexual reproduction of the new cultivar by terminal cuttings taken in a controlled environment in Lompoc, California has shown that the unique features of this new Verbena are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 10 The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of 'Bodcomwhi'. These characteristics in combination distinguish 'Bodcomwhi' as a new and distinct cultivar:

1. Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.
- 15 2. Freely branching habit; dense and bushy growth habit.
3. Dark green-colored leaves.

4. White-colored flowers with flowers held above and beyond the foliage.

Plants of the new Verbena differ primarily from plants of the parent selections in plant habit and flower coloration.

- 5 Plants of the new Verbena can be compared to plants of the cultivar Romance White, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Lompoc, California, plants of the new Verbena differed primarily from plants of the cultivar Romance White in plant and flower form as plants of the cultivar Romance White are more
10 mounded and have narrower flower petals than plants of the new Verbena.

Plants of the new Verbena can be compared to plants of the cultivar Sandy White, not patented. In side-by-side comparisons conducted in Lompoc, California, plants of the new Verbena differed

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- 15 primarily from plants of the cultivar Sandy White in plant form as plants of the cultivar Sandy White are more upright and taller than plants of the new Verbena.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS

The accompanying colored photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new cultivar, showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type.

- 5 Colors in the photograph differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new Verbena.

- 10 The photograph at the top of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical flowering plant of 'Bodcomwhi' grown in a container. The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a close-up view of typical inflorescences, flowers and leaves of 'Bodcomwhi'.

DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION

- 15 The cultivar Bodcomwhi has not been observed under all possible environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environment such as temperature and light intensity without, however, any variance in genotype. The

aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown in Lompoc, California, under commercial practice during the winter and spring in a polycarbonate-covered greenhouse with day temperatures about 18 to 24°C, night
5 temperatures about 16 to 18°C, and light levels about 4,000 to 8,000 foot-candles. Cuttings were planted in 10-cm containers, pinched one time, and grown for about nine weeks. In the following description, color references are made to the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart, 1995 Edition, except where general terms of ordinary dictionary
10 significance are used.

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION:

Verbena hybrida cultivar Bodcomwhi.

PARENTAGE:

Female, or seed, parent: *Verbena hybrida* cultivar Romance

15 Salmon, not patented.

Male, or pollen, parent: *Verbena hybrida* cultivar Cadix, not patented.

PROPAGATION:

Type cutting: Terminal cuttings.

Time to initiate roots, summer: About 7 to 10 days at 26°C.

Time to initiate roots, winter: About 21 days at 26°C.

5 Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner, summer: About 21 days at 26°C.

Time to produce a rooted cutting or liner, winter: About 28 days at 26°C.

Root description: Fine, fibrous; white in color.

10 Rooting habit: Freely branching; dense.

PLANT DESCRIPTION:

Form: Compact, upright and mounded plant habit.

Growth and branching habit: Vigorous and freely-branching with about 18 lateral branches developing after the pinch, dense and bushy growth habit.

15 Plant height: About 21 cm.

Plant diameter or spread: About 23 cm.

Lateral branches:

Length: About 18 cm.

Diameter: About 2 mm.

Internode length: About 3.5 cm.

5 Texture: Pubescent.

Color: 144A.

Foliage description:

Arrangement: Opposite, simple.

Length: About 5.5 cm.

10 Width: About 1.3 cm.

Shape: Oblong to elliptic.

Apex: Acute.

Base: Acute to attenuate.

Margin: Irregularly crenate.

15 Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Coarse, pubescent.

Venation pattern: Pinnate.

Color:

Developing and fully expanded foliage, upper
surface: 147A.

5 Developing and fully expanded foliage, lower
surface: 147B.

Venation, upper surface: 147B.

Venation, lower surface: 147C.

Petiole:

Length: About 1 cm.

10 Diameter: About 2 mm.

Color: 147B.

FLOWER DESCRIPTION:

Flower type and habit: Single upright salverform flowers
arranged on compact terminal racemes; flowers sessile. Freely
15 flowering with about 12 flowers and flower buds per raceme;
about two to three racemes per lateral branch. Inflorescences

positioned above and beyond the foliage. Flowers last about two to four days under greenhouse conditions. Flowers not persistent.

Fragrance: None detected.

5 Flowering season: In the garden, flowering is continuous from spring until fall.

Inflorescence height: About 3 cm.

Inflorescence diameter: About 6.5 cm.

Flower size:

Diameter: About 2.6 cm.

10 Tube length: About 3 cm.

Throat diameter: About 2.5 mm.

Tube diameter, at base: About 2.5 mm.

Flower buds:

Rate of opening, from showing color to fully open flower:

15 About 1 to 2 days.

Length: About 1.3 cm.

Diameter, apex: About 4 mm.

Diameter, base: About 2.5 mm.

Shape: Tubular, oblong.

Color: 20C.

Petals:

5 Quantity/arrangement: Five per flower fused at base.

Lobe length: About 1.3 cm.

Lobe width: About 1.2 cm.

Shape: Roughly cordate.

Apex: Emarginate.

10 Margin: Entire.

Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Velvety, smooth.

Color:

When opening, upper surface: 20D.

When opening, lower surface: Lighter than 20D.

15 Fully opened, upper surface: 155D; color becoming
more white than 155D with development.

Fully opened, lower surface: 155D.

Throat: 155A.

Tube: Close to 155D.

Sepals:

Quantity/arrangement: Five; fused into a tube.

5 Length: About 1.3 cm.

Diameter: About 2.5 mm.

Shape: Ligulate.

Apex: Acute.

Margin: Entire.

10 Texture, upper and lower surfaces: Coarse, pubescent.

Color, upper surface: 143D.

Color, lower surface: 143A.

Peduncles:

Length: About 5.25 cm.

15 Diameter: About 1.5 mm.

Angle: Upright to about 45° from vertical.

Strength: Strong.

Color: 144A.

Reproductive organs:

Stamens:

Quantity per flower: Four; adnate to pistil.

5 Anther shape: Oval.

Anther length: Less than 1 mm.

Anther color: 144D.

Pollen amount: Scarce.

Pollen color: 2D.

10 Pistils:

Quantity per flower: One.

Pistil length: About 1.8 cm.

Stigma shape: Bi-parted.

Stigma color: 144D.

15 Style length: About 1.6 cm.

Style color: 144D.

Ovary color: 144C.

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Fruit/seed: Fruit and seed production has not been observed.

DISEASE/PEST RESISTANCE:

Plants of the new Verbena have not been observed to be resistant to pathogens and pests common to Verbena.

5 TEMPERATURE TOLERANCE:

Plants of the new Verbena have been observed to be tolerant to temperatures ranging from 2 to 40°C.